

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125972
ORIGIN ARA-07

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-----007671 180132Z /62
P 172352Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, MX

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL STAFF TRAVEL

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY HSCA TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING LETTER (WHICH IS BEING POUCHED, ATTENTION: FRANK STARRS) TO AG FLORES.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL: THE ASSISTANCE YOU AND YOUR OFFICE HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMITTEE'S INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE KING TASK FORCE WILL, AS I BELIEVE YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED, ARRIVE IN MEXICO TO BEGIN WORK ON JUNE 1, 1978. THE COMMITTEE IS GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO MAKE ITS WORK SUCCESSFUL.
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I WRITE AT THIS TIME TO REQUEST THAT YOU ALSO LEND US YOUR ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION OF THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. IN ADDITION TO LOCATING THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED IN THE KING INVESTIGATION, IT WOULD BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD ASSIST US IN LOCATING AND INTER-

VIEWING THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES ARE ATTACHED TO THIS

LETTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE KENNEDY INVESTIGATION (SEE ATTACHMENT A). IF IT IS FEASIBLE, THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO HAVE THE STAFF CONDUCT THESE INTERVIEWS BEGINNING ON JUNE 1 AND EXTENDING THROUGH JUNE 3. I RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT THIS MIGHT BE A DIFFICULT SCHEDULE TO MEET. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER ALSO IS A LIST OF THOSE STAFF MEMBERS WHO WILL BE IN MEXICO ON THE KING AND KENNEDY TASK FORCES (SEE ATTACHMENT B).

AGAIN, MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND COOPERATION.

SINCERELY, G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR.
END OF TEXT.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER THE HSCA LETTER WHEN IT ARRIVES, AND IF NECESSARY EXPLAIN TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT THE HSCA KENNEDY INVESTIGATION TEAM ALSO WISHES TO VISIT MEXICO, AND THAT IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE GOM COULD FACILITATE THE HSCA REQUEST. (FYI: HSCA KENNEDY AND KING TEAMS OPERATE SEPARATELY AND INDEPENDENTLY OF EACH OTHER.)
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4. ASSUMING THAT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ARE AGREEABLE TO KENNEDY TEAM VISIT, FOUR-MAN TEAM (GARY CORNWELL, HAROLD LEAP, DAN HARDWAY, AND EDWIN LOPEZ; LAST-NAMED SPEAKS SPANISH) WILL ARRIVE MEXICO CITY MAY 30 VIA TEXAS INTERNATIONAL 983 AT 402 PM AND DEPART ON JUNE 4 VIA EASTERN 904. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO RESERVE TWO SINGLES AND ONE DOUBLE NEAR EMBASSY FOR THAT PERIOD.

5. HSCA KING TEAM WILL ARRIVE MAY 31 AND REQUESTS RESERVATIONS FOR TWO DOUBLES AND ONE SINGLE. EXACT FLIGHT INFORMATION WILL BE CABLED WHEN AVAILABLE. ARA/MEX HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR LUCEY OF THIS ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE REQUEST. VANCE

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